(a) whether CBI has recently unearthed evidence of alleged kickbacks of more than Rs.100 crore by a Russian company, M/s, Technoprom-export (TPE) to Indian agent to win power project contract;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in awarding power projects' contracts, there is no transparency and the middlemen are receiving and paying kickbacks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken by Government to investigate into all the power projects' contracts allocated in the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by CBI in June, 2009 a criminal case RC DAI-2006-A-0006 dated 06.03.2006 was registered u/s 120-B IPC r/w Sec.7, 8, 13(2) r/w 13(1) (d) of PC Act, 1988 against unknown officials of National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) of India, M/s. FGUP 'VO' Technopromexport (TPE), Moscow, Russia and unknown others. It is alleged in the FIR that during the period 2002-05, certain unknown officials of NTPC at Delhi/Noida (U.P.) entered into a criminal conspiracy with unknown officials of TPE and others, and in pursuance of the conspiracy the said public servants of NTPC, by abusing their official position, obtained illegal gratifications in the matter of award of contracts for the Super Thermal Power Project (STPP) at Barh, Distt. Patna, Bihar to TPE. Investigation of the case has revealed that in violation of the conditions of contracts with NTPC, TPE has paid illegal commission of US$20,746,362.13 (5.305% of $391,121,452, the amount of contract No.CS-9558-102-2SC-COA-4520), Rs.3,33,06,123.61 (equivalent to US$762686.83 i.e. 0.195% of $391,121,452, the amount of contract No.CS-9558-102-2SC-COA-4520) and US$825,481.77 (equivalent to Rs.36,445,020, i.e. 5.305% of Rs.686,993,784 the amount of contract no.CS-9558-102-2-SC-COA-4521) to one M/s. Ravina & Associates Pvt. Ltd. CBI has also informed in November, 2009 that the case is under investigation and that Letters Rogatory have been issued for collecting evidence from various countries which are being pursued regularly for early execution.

(c) PSUs/organizations of Ministry of Power have informed that they are following a transparent process in the award of contracts for various projects. No case of middlemen receiving or paying kickbacks has been reported by them.

(d) Does not arise.

Allocation of power to Karnataka

2738. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Karnataka has requested the Centre to increase its 16.01 per cent share of power allocation from the existing central power generating stations and also from the new central power generating stations in pipeline at par with its neighbouring States; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon and if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka through a memorandum dated 06.8.2009 had requested the Minister of Power for additional allocation of power to Karnataka from Central Generating Stations (CGSs).

The existing allocation of power from Central Generating Stations of Southern Region to the States of the region is given under :

State	Allocation (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	2921-3011
Karnataka	1500-1548
Kerala	1191-1196
Tamil Nadu	3132 - 3207

The allocation of Karnataka is relatively less in comparison to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu mainly because of higher benefits of dedicated stations and the Home State share available to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Simhadri Thermal Power Stations (1000 MW) is dedicated to Andhra Pradesh and the State gets the benefit of 10% Home State share in the capacity of Ramagundam Stage-I & II (2600 MW). Tamil Nadu is having Neyveli-I (600 MW) as a dedicated station and also gets benefit of 10% Home State share in Madras Atomic Power Station (440 MW) and Neyveli-I Expansion (420 MW) and Neyveli-II Stage I & II (1470 MW). Karnataka is having 10% Home State share in Kaiga Atomic Power Station (660 MW).

In view of the fact that Karnataka had been allocated 227 to 276 MW (20.9% to 25.4%) unallocated power from the CGSs of Southern Region, which is second highest in the region and further allocation will call for reduction from other States/UT, it was not possible to make additional allocation to Karnataka. The position has been intimated to Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka on 14.10.2009.

Rural Electrification

2739. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Chhattisgarh and Orissa for electrification of village/Majra tolas under rural electrification programme and for publicity and awareness in this regard;

(b) by when the sanction is proposed to be granted in this regard; and

(c) whether Government will consider lowering the limit of 100 persons in exceptional cases?